

## MINUTES

South Carolina Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel

11:00 A.M., September 16 2005

Conference Call Meeting

Carolyn Porter, Chairman, of Greenville, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Other members participating in the conference call included: Kim Brewer, of Hilton Head; and Linda Pearson, of Spartanburg.

Staff members participating in the conference call included: Randy Bryant, Deputy Director; Lisa Hawsey, Program Assistant; Eddie Jones, Administrator; and Connie Huffstetler, Administrative Assistant.

No members of the public participated in the conference call.

### Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Porter announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

### Approval of June 10, 2005 Meeting Minutes

#### MOTION

Ms. Pearson moved to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2005 meeting. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion, which carried.

### Unfinished Business

#### License Renewal Fees

The members asked for a status of the study to reduce fees for massage therapy renewals. Mr. Bryant noted that consideration must be given to the number of licensees and how much it costs to run a program. He explained that one program's fees could not easily be compared to another because of such factors. Mr. Bryant said that the study would be done prior to the next renewal period.

### Infrared Pin

The Panel discussed an inquiry from Mark Hendler regarding the use of an infrared pin by massage therapists. Mr. Bryant read aloud for the members a description of the infrared pin sent to Mr. Jones by Mr. Hendler. The members agreed that the device in question is not within the scope of practice of massage therapy.

#### MOTION

Ms. Brewer made a motion to direct the staff to inform Mr. Hendler that the infrared pin was not approved for use by massage therapists. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion, which carried.

### On Line Training for Massage Therapists

Ms. Porter advised the members that the SC Massage Therapy Association had surveyed their members regarding on line training for massage therapy. The respondents to the survey did not feel that on line training was advisable for massage therapy.

Ms. Porter noted that the NC Board has determined that if the issue is brought before them, they will accept twelve hours of on line training. Ms. Porter also said that Rene Eshelman of the Commission on Higher Education has also acknowledged that massage therapy is different from other courses of study and may not be appropriate for on line training.

Mr. Bryant and Mr. Jones will follow up with Sharon Dantzler on the status of the Notice of Intent to Draft regarding on line training for massage therapists.

### Federation of States Meeting

Ms. Brewer will be attending a meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico later in the month. She will be in contact with the other Panel members regarding issues that arise during the meeting.

### Discussion Items

#### Disciplinary Process

Mr. Bryant explained to the members how complaints and disciplinary matters are handled. When a complaint is received, it assigned to the investigative unit. After the investigation has been completed, the findings are reviewed by Mr. Bryant and legal counsel. If it is determined that there is no violation of the Practice Act, the case would be dismissed. In those cases where there is evidence of a violation of the practice act, the penalty could range from a reprimand, either public or private, to a civil penalty, to suspension or revocation of the license. In some cases, the licensee will agree to voluntarily relinquish the license.

### Massage Therapy Instructors

Ms. Brewer noted that a massage therapy school was opening a new location in Bluffton. She asked what the requirements are to teach massage therapy. Ms. Porter answered that an instructor must have three years experience as a licensed massage therapist.

### Panel Members

Ms. Brewer asked what the statute requires as to the make up of the Advisory and Disciplinary Panels. Mr. Bryant read the statute, which said that the Advisory Panel is comprised of 5 members, all of whom are licensed massage therapists. The Disciplinary Panel is made up of 3 licensed massage therapists and 2 public members. Ms. Porter noted that although Isabelle Boyd's term expired, she could serve until another appointment is made, if she chooses, and should be notified of meetings. Ms. Brewer stated that she had spoken with someone at the governor's office to express her concern at the vacancies on the Advisory and Disciplinary Panels.

### Change to Interpretations

Ms. Brewer returned to the issue of the infrared pin and the members agreed that a change should be made in the interpretations to reflect the Panel's stance on the use of such devices.

#### MOTION

Ms. Brewer moved to add the term "laser or similar device" to the interpretations in regard to exclusions from practice by massage therapists. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion, which carried.

### Monitoring Legislation

Ms. Pearson noted that during the June meeting, Mr. Bryant suggested having Susan Duncan attend a Panel Meeting to advise the Panel on following legislation pertaining to the profession of massage therapy. The members agreed to invite Ms. Duncan to the December 2 meeting.

### CEU Audit

Ms. Pearson agreed to take over the CEU auditing of 5% of licensees.

### Interpretations

Ms. Brewer agreed to keep track of changes and additions to the interpretations.

### Application for Licensure by Reciprocity

Ms. Porter advised the other members of an application for reciprocity received by the staff from Kimberly Heck, who was grandfathered in NC after practicing for 15 years. The applicant state that she has 500 hours in workshops but provided no documentation of such. Ms. Heck has passed the national exam, but is not current with that certification.

#### MOTION

Ms. Pearson moved to deny the application for reciprocity for Kimberly Heck. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion, which carried.

### Adjournment

#### MOTION

Ms. Pearson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brewer and carried.